

NEWINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
NEWINGTON TOWN HALL
131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT
CONFERENCE ROOM L-101, LOWER LEVEL, TOWN HALL
WEDNESDAY, October 2, 2013

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman James Marocchini
Commissioner Karen Faust (excused)
Commissioner Stanley Marcinczyk
Commissioner David Marsden
Commissioner Fernando Rosa (absent)
Commissioner Thomas Shields
Commissioner Paul Vessella
Commissioner Thomas Shields
Commissioner Gregory Polk
Commissioner Linda Woods

Also present, Economic Development Director
Andrew Brecher

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES September 9, 2013

Commissioner Shields made a motion to approve of the September 9, 2013 minutes which was seconded by Commissioner Polk. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Marsden reported that a new pizza shop has opened for business on Fern Road.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. DOWNTOWN SIGNAGE FOR CONSTITUTION SQUARE/MARKET SQUARE

Director Brecher reported that progress has been made and material has been ordered for the signs and will be fabricated this month. Chip Stamm presented a proposal from the Downtown Business Association to increase pedestrian and vehicle safety in the Constitution Square area which included the addition of 3 stop signs, 4 exit signs and distributed a comprehensive package to the members of the commission. Director Brecher will confer with the Highway Department.

B. GATEWAY SIGNAGE

Commissioner Marcinczyk reported that working collaboratively with Don Woods and the Parks and Recreation crew, debris and excess weeds around the "Welcome to Newington" sign location by the Newington Humane Society were removed and tidied up.

Commissioner Marcinczyk presented photographs of both "before" and "after" of the Welcome to Newington sign near the Humane Society which will be maintained by Parks and Recreation. To this, Director Brecher has already received an inquiry by a company that would like to place their business on the sign. Director Brecher also handed out a list of businesses in the North Mountain Road/Elmwood Court Industrial Commercial Areas with the question raised of protocol for being placed on these directory signs. Commissioner Polk suggested conferring with a town official, such as the highway department. Director Brecher will explore the creation of a policy which will guide the continued operation of this signage.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rose Lyons thanked Chip Stamm and Commissioner Stanley Marcinczyk for their due diligence in the upgrading and maintenance of town signage, along with several suggestions regarding Alumni Road, the Clem Lemire and North Mountain Road signs.

VII. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Brecher noted that the National Welding site development is still on hold. Best Market is a beehive of activity with the store manager conducting employee interviews and hiring personnel, with the certificate of occupancy and opening date set for October 25, 2013.

Director Brecher also announced that the former Fafnir Building is seeking site plan approval.

Director Brecher reported that the former Cedar Mountain hospital site has been listed on the Connecticut environmental monitor for public comments, which is an early step for Director Brecher to keep track of its possible sale and redevelopment.

An additional announcement is that 72 Pane Road has been purchased with 725,000SF being developed.

The Hidden Vine has reopened with new tenants.

Tunxis Grill and Pizzeria will have its formal opening within the near future.

VIII. REMARKS BY COMMISSIONERS

A. District Reports

Commissioner Polk reported that the Waterfall Festival was successful with 68 vendors in attendance.

B. Chamber Report

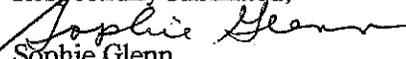
Commissioner Marsden reported that there will be a fund raiser sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce on November 15, 2013 with a dinner and silent auction/wine tasting at the Hawthorne Inn.

Commissioner Shields announced that the American Legion will have a wine tasting event on November 16, 2013.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Shields made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Marsden seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Sophie Glenn
Recording Secretary